SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

4th year

No 72

September 2 1970

ADDRESS:

HT 1817 B-SVN

C/O

DAZIMINA HANOI

19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN

and all RSVN Embassies, Information Offices in foreign countries.

6 NOV 4 - 1970

Cont Copy

VIET NAM HAS THE RIGHT TO BE A FREE AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY – AND IN FACT IT IS SO ALREADY. THE ENTIRE VIET-NAMESE PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO MOBILIZE ALL THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH, TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY.

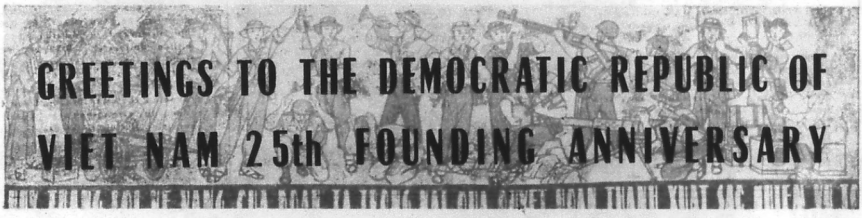
(Declaration of Independence - September 2, 1945)

President Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the DRVN Declaration of Independence on September 2, 1945.

"NOTHING IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM"

HO CHI MINH

We are determined to mobilize all our physical and mental strength to safeguard our independence and liberty.



Prisoner's letter from Saigon

I AM DYING FOR A DAY IN FREEDOM

Saigon, July 20, 1970

To the Editor of "South Viet Nam in Struggle"

During most painful days I have tried to note down part of the truth in the prisons I went through. I beg you to let me relate to your Readers what I have suffered and witnessed over the past fifteen years.

I still remember that autumn evening as yesterday... Like other evenings I went out for a look at the flowers in front of my house, at the tangerine trees and the orange-trees in the nearby orchard... Arrived at the gate I met with the Hais in the neighbouring hamlet and nodded to them. The husband smiled with an anxious and hurried look about him and so did the wife after making a few steps, while the baby in her arms also waved at me..

Suddenly the village was plunged into smoke and fire. The children's cry and the old folk's desperate calls were drowned in a blazing fire which destroyed the pretty houses built since the August 1945 Revolution and newly repaired after July 1954, following the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

On US orders the bloodhound Ngo Dinh Diem kindled this devastating fire to burn innocent people, carry out reprisals against former Resistance members in the so-called "Operation" Truong Tan Buu. Since then, I have no longer seen any gentle smile as that of the Hais on this autumn evening. Throughout 15 years I have only seen satanic smiles on the faces of men with the feelings of beasts.

That day, a group of five people came and searched my house. Seeing me in the orchard, one of them asked: "Is that you, Nguyen Thi Thom?" and approached me in an attempt to commit an assault on me... I stepped back and gave him a strong slap. He shouted: "Ah, you dared smack a "Nationalists!" and they pushed me inside the house.

"Now off you go", he shouted.

"Where to?"

"To prison."

"Why? By virtue of the Geneva Agreements I have come back home to live in peace..."

"Enough of your arguing! Agreements—Stipulations—Nonsense! We are bound by no agreement! This country now has its own power. If you refuse to go, we'll exercise our discretionary powers, understand?"

Awakened by this turmoil my eldest child started to cry. I tried to go to him but was prevented from doing so. When my mother brought him to me two thugs in leopard spotted uniform rushed at, and, like two hungry tigers, they snatched the child and beat and kicked him to death with their rifle-butts and hobnailed boots. Wild with pain I screamed and went at them... My boy's body in my arms I felt that it was but a mash. My mother fainted. The group leader savagely finished her off with a round.

Then I was handcuffed and marched off to Thu Dau Mot provincial jail. At midnight I was brought to the torture-room. The thugs pinioned my arms and hung me in mid-air, my head drooping on my chest. Seven or eight bravos rained blows at me with cudgels and rattan whips, swinging me around. I screamed and swooned...

After about 15 minutes they stopped and began to question:

"Are you Nguyen Thi Thom?"

"Where is Tran Van Ba?"

"Who are former Resistance members?"

"Where do you hide weapons and munitions?"

"My husband Ba is still where he is earning his living"... I answered "As a woman I do not know anything about what you have just asked me."

Beating and questioning again. While fainting I vaguely heard them say to one another, "Her breathing is already very weak. Let her down. Put her in prison." In the jail, with my mates' help I came to. Another torture began. The thugs now beat me at any time or any place. I was forced down by my hair on my backs, kicked in the face, stomach, nose, cheeks and ears, struck with a rifle butt on the chest, or they bent me double by twisting my arms and driving a knee into my sternum. They stopped when I fainted and started anew when I came to. This time warden head, Zi came to my cell with an American and compelled me to pass my fingers on two sharp blades in front of my jail mates until blood trickled out of them. I was also forced to sit on a red hot brass tray until my flesh sizzled. Standing by my sides two thugs gripped my cheeks, ears, thighs and nose with red-hot pincers.

Only when I swooned did they cease. The third questioning followed two days later. This time I was stripped naked before the thugs who drank wine and smoked. They thrusted bottlenecks, eels, fish into my genital until blood spurted out. Then they brought me into the torture-room, compelled me to lie on a long table, and burned my finger tips, toes, navel, breast-nipples, nose privy parts with combustible matter. On my body was a score of little fires. My pain made the thugs laugh.

During my two years at the Thu Dau Mot prison, they could not extort anything from me, so they brought me to Thu Duc jail. There I met Nguyen Kim Cuc, 17 years old, emaciated and covered with wounds. Cruelties against women are more refined in this prison. My meeting with Cuc was used as a pretext for the thugs to torture me. The punishment might last sometimes a whole day. For four hours I was asked the same question. I was forced to look at a 500w lamp 20 centimetres from me during a day. Or I was compelled to stand on one leg until I collapsed. They gave me scanty food just to survive, sometimes I had only a handful of rotten rice mixed with sand for two or three days. Every two or three days I was given one litre of water for washing.

After that, they sent me to Poulo Condor island. There Captain Nam labelled me as a "dyed in the wool Viet Cong." An American sublieutenant called me "VC number one." Then I was jailed in a tiger cage. "So that I can prepare myself to follow Tran Trung Tin", as they said. Later on I was told that Tran Trung Tin had been detained there and tortured to death in my tiger cage.

At that time my body was already all covered of wounds, so they just told me to lie on my belly and pricked my wounds with needles.

Torture was intensified when they could not extort anything from me. At last they made me lie on the cement floor and had a roller crush my left arm. At present I am under custody in one of these villas reserved for the Americans, now in this street now in another in Saigon. I am dying for a day in freedom and for a reunion with my dear ones. But the US-puppets have shattered my family happiness, deprived me of my old mother, my eldest child, and my left arm and left me with painful wounds. Now they are putting me to a slow death in one of their secret prisons in Saigon.

Through your paper I hope that my voice will reach all persons of conscience in the world.

NGUYEN THI THOM

US Record of Crimes

100 B.52 PLANES AND 3,000 TONS OF BOMBS

ON August 18, 1970 Saigon Radio announced that the US military spokesman had reported that yesterday the US Command had given orders to almost all squadrons of B.52s (about 100) based in Guam, Okinawa and Thailand to pour 3,000 tons of bombs on the provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien. These raids have caused heavy losses in civilian lives and property.

The fact that one seventh of USSAC B.52 bombers dumped 3,000 tons of bombs on these two provinces has thrown a sinister light on US design of wholesale murder of South Vietnamese.

This bombing, aimed at wiping out all manifestations of life in these localities is the biggest and most murderous raid ever mounted so far.

The *Daily News Washington* correspondent said it was the heaviest air strike in these areas in the past two years.

But it was not the only fierce bombardment carried out by B.52 strategic bombers. In the first half of 1970, the US aggressors many times made extensive use of their strategic air force against civilians in South Viet Nam. At times, 60 B.52s flying at 9,000 metres altitude and guided by radar stations rained nearly 2,000 tons of bombs on the A So valley. Most recently, on May 25, 1970, 60 B.52s showered nearly 2,000 tons of bombs along the DMZ.

There is no denying the Nixon administration's intensified use of B.52s in its aggressive war in the South.

In this connection, UPI disclosed on March 24, 1969 that the US had earmarked an additional 112 million dollars for B.52 operations in the next 15 months in Viet Nam. On June 24, 1970, the Japanese GPS agency also revealed that measures had been taken to strengthen the bases servicing the 367th strategic air force so that B.52s bombers would be able to take off from Cadena base (Okinawa) for round-the-clock bombing in Viet Nam.

editorial

Greetings to the DRVN 25th founding anniversary

THE Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is just twenty-five years old. A quarter of a century has elapsed and the country has traversed a long historical path. Twenty-five years ago, our beloved and venerated President Ho Chi Minh solemnly proclaimed before the nation and the world: "Viet Nam is entitled to, and in fact has achieved freedom and independence..."

A country without a name on the world map, a colonial, semi-feudal and backward agricultural one, has become a Viet Nam with an advanced social system unmatched by those of many countries, the United States included.

DURING this period of time, the DRVN has accomplished historical missions of tremendous importance. Less than a month after the declaration of independence (September 2), our Southern fellow-countrymen had to resist a comeback of the French colonialists. And a year and four months after that epoch-making day, the nationwide war of resistance broke out to last almost eight years and came to a close with the dramatic Dien Bien Phu victory. On July 20, 1954 the Geneva accords were signed: the French colonialists had to pull out and North Viet Nam was completely liberated. Nevertheless, US imperialism waded into the South and mounted an aggression there in the form of "special warfare", then "limited" warfare, in an attempt to submit our people, impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam and turn it into an American military base. Since then the South Vietnamese have been fighting for the safeguarding of their revolutionary gains and the recovery of independence and freedom. Their liberated Northern fellow-countrymen have made utmost efforts in national rehabilitation after so many years of foreign rule and war devastation, and for the building of a socialist system, the finest in human history.

North Viet Nam, a part of a colonial and industrially backward country, is now building the bases for a modern industry—a collectivized agriculture, an advanced national culture and a developed science and technology. While concentrating on shaping a new life, the Northerners are wholeheartedly contributing to the resistance of their Southern kith and kin.

In August 1964, as they were striving to get out of their morass in the South and transforming their "special war" into a "limited war", the American imperialists started an air and naval war of destruction against the DRVN. They wanted to hamper socialist construction in the north and destroy its economic and military potentials, thereby preventing it from discharging its responsibilities as the great rear base toward the south—the great fighting front. Under the clearsighted and resolute leadership of President Ho Chi Minh, the Northern people and their armed forces struck back at the US aggressors and, simultaneously, carried on socialist construction and kept supplies flowing to South Viet Nam.

The road covered and the great events, that have gone down in the nation's history show the miraculous development of the DRVN, the prodigious strength of the Vietnamese people as well as their heroic deeds unparalled in their four-thousand-year history. In a quarter of a century, under the democratic republican regime, they have made greater strides than under any previous social system. Glory to the DRVN! Glory to the Viet Nam of Dien Bien Phu! Glory to the homeland of the great Ho Chi Minh!

At the fore-front, in lieu of crachers and flowers, the South Viet Nam people and armed forces are letting off bullets and shells at the enemy, and emulating in accomplishing feats of arms to greet the 25th founding anniversary of the new Viet Nam—their heroic Fatherland—and the splendid achievements of its daughters and sons.

IN the past twenty years the South Vietnamese people have never experienced a lull in the fighting. South Viet Nam has been heroically, perseveringly bending all their moral and physical energies to defend the nation's independence and freedom. The US imperialists have deployed a considerable part of their forces and war means, and resorted to atrocious methods still unknown to mankind to bring the South Vietnamese people to their knees. However, heir to glorious national traditions, steeled by the August Revolution and the war of resistance against the French colonialists, under the able leadership of the National Front for Liberation, they have four times got the upper hand of US imperialism in the last twenty five years: in resisting French aggression in 1945 they thwarted American interference in the first Indochina war, then after 1954 they frustrated US direct intervention by foiling its "special war", and are now holding in check its "limited war." The US aggressors' failure is left in no doubt and their final defeat is only a matter of time. The South Vietnamese people's successes are constantly on the increase and the ultimate triumph of the South Vietnamese revolution is a certainty.

In this resistance to aggression by the United States-the chieftain of imperialism, the most fiendish foe of mankind-the South Vietnamese people owed each of their achievements to the solicitude and guidance of President Ho Chi Minh—the beloved and venerated leader of the entire people—to the encouragement and wholehearted assistance of the DRVN National Assembly and Government, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and their Northern hindred. President Ho Chi Minh's vibrant appeals and praise full of boundless love have stirred up and stimulated the South Vietnamese people and armed forces, breathed in them fresh strength in their march toward final victory. In the meantime their Northern fellow-countrymen, having stood up valiantly to the US war of destruction, are continuing the building of socialism and discharging their obligations toward the South Viet Nam frontline.

For the liberation of South Viet Nam, they are sparing no efforts, shrinking from no sacrifice, not even from that of their lives. A vivid expression of this deep, sacred love has been found in the ebullient and continuous movements to strengthen north-south solidarity ties, to "produce for our kith and kin in the south" over the past years. At present in accomplishment of their heavy responsibility in the effort for national salvation, our Northern people are resolved to push up their production drives to a new high, with a view to fulfilling their 1970 state plan, thus contributing to the successful building of socialism, to total victory over the US aggressors, the liberation of the South, the defence of the north and the eventual reunification of the country.

Never has national unity and north-south solidarity been so remarkably enhanced as in the current resistance to US aggression. The people of South Viet Nam have engraved for ever in their hearts the princeless services of President Ho Chi Minh and their Northern brothers and sisters to their cause.

THEY feel very proud of the socialist north, the rear base of the entire country. On the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the DRVN, they turn their thoughts to their 17 million fellow-countrymen there, and convey to them the assurances of their loyal affection; they express to the DRVN Government and the Viet Nam Workers' Party their heartfelt sentiments of north-south solidarity. The commemoration of this great event is instilling into them more enthusiasm, more confidence in the outcome of their struggle, and fresh zeal in their march toward final victory. They pledge all their moral and physical energies to the defence of freedom and independence, to strengthen unity and fulfil to the best of their ability the glorious task entrusted them by the nation, in compliance of President Ho Chi Minh's last wishes. Glory to Viet Nam, our beloved and heroic Fatherland!

The people and armed forces of South Viet Nam swear to prove worthy of their Fatherland and of her glorious traditions.

SOUTH VIET NAM

At Tan Trao communal house, 25 years ago, a National Convention decided the "August General Insurrection."

SAIGON Is Living on Her August Epic

THE August Revolution was not only a landmark for our people, but also a prelude to an undying epic. Saigon, the glorious city, rose up with the whole country to intone the heroic song of the nation, initiated by the historic August 25, 1945.

Twenty-five years have passed, but the prelude of the Saigon epic is still ringing in unison with the hearts of her citizens.

On the night of August 24, the whole of Saigon was in effervescence. Yellow-starred red flags fluttered everywhere. In Nguyen Van Hao theatre, Gallieni street, a huge demonstration was held. At midnight, the orders for the uprising were issued. Soon a militant mood swept across enemy posts, public offices, villas, enterprises, schools... At 2 a.m. armed detachments from workers' and suburban quarters thronged downtown Saigon to bring to pass a pregnant moment — the overthrow of the enemy and the emergence of revolutionary people's power. At 7 a.m. an over one-million-strong meeting was staged before the state church at Norodom Square. The Viet Minh Front and revolutionary organizations presented themselves before the people and proclaimed the abolition of the enemy administration and the setting up of the people's revolutionary power. Then a similar impressive crowd of a million marched through the streets. It seemed that the whole of Saigon was up to greet the light of the revolution, and breathe in the air of independence and freedom under the democratic republic, turning over a new page of national glory.

NAM BO RESISTANCE

BOUND by only 29 days of independence and freedom to the democratic republic regime, Saigon kept on chanting her martial song: "After the August excited days we responded to the call of the Fatherland in danger, on the 23rd of September...", when the warlike French colonialists trampled again on beloved Saigon streets. The Saigon song accompanied by the first shots on the fateful September 23 heralded the long but eventually victorious resistance of Nam Bo and the whole nation.

In the history of this young city have gone down the valiant exploit of hero Pham Van Hai who blowed up the Phu Tho Hoa bomb-depot, the strikes of the Arsenal, Simac, Eifel workers, of the labouring people in Ben Thanh, Tan Dinh and Binh Tay markets, of the Petrus Ky Lycée students, of the boy Le Van Tam who made a living torch of himself inside an enemy ammunition dump and the January 9 tumultuous action, dominated by patriotic student Tran Van On...

The poem proceeded with a dramatic event: the Day of Nation Wide Protest against American Aggression (March 19), when half a million people united as one man put out a show of the strength of the entire nation and shouted "Down with the US imperialists", "US imperialists go home" right in the enemy sanctuary. The formidable display of popular anger forced the visiting American naval vessels out of Saigon harbour. Since then for a quarter of a century more and more new-making feats have been added to Saigon's record.

A NEW CHAPTER

SAIGON has won the hearts and the minds of our nation, of our fraternal and friendly countries, with her incredible stamina in the second sacred resistance against the Huns of today, the US imperialists, the common enemy of our nation and of the peace-loving people throughout the world:

A demonstration of half a million workers and labouring people on May Day 1956, and meetings on the festive days of the working class in the subsequent years, angry strikes of the Vinatexco and Vimitex textile workers in 1963, a procession staged by 700,000 Buddhists during the funeral of Superior Bonze Thich Quang Duc, various turbulent drives of students, school pupils, youths, women, Buddhist believers, puppet disabled men for better living conditions, democracy, against the Khanh Huong then Tri Quang cliques over the past years, and bomb attacks on the Metropole, Victoria, Brink, US embassy, Tan Son Nhat airport.

In Mau Than spring (1968) the whole of Saigon was again in turmoil: they rose up simultaneously with the entire country and fought right in the city streets. Workers were turned into Liberation fighters, girl-students into self-defence members, pedicab-drivers into munition-supplier or stretcher bearers, shoe-shine boys into scouts, women-labourers or small traders-women into cooks for the insurgents...

The whole of Saigon took to the streets together with Liberation fighters and headed for the US-puppet last dens: Independence Palace, US Embassy, Navy HQ, Saigon Radio, Tan Son Nhut air port, General HQ, Police Directorate,... where each brick and length of barbed wire was tainted with our fellow countrymen's and comrades' blood. The whole of Saigon flew to arms in workers' quarters, crowded streets, market places, small lanes to round up thugs, break the enemy's grip and recover their right to be masters of the country.

Saigon is proud of her sons and daughters like Le Van Tam, Tran Van On, Le Thi Rieng, Tran Van Kieu, Nguyen Van Troi, Tran Van Dang, Le Quang Vinh, Le Hong Tu, Vo Thi Thang, Khong Que Kinh, Phung Ngoc Anh, Nguyen Van Chinh and countless other obscure but courageous and fine examples of self-sacrifice for her liberation. Representative of Vietnamese revoutionary heroism are her Liberation fighters, women, workers, self-defence members, brave and unyielding, valiant and daring, giving battle to the enemy right in his den, the US Embassy.

Now another August has come. Its traditional fire is adding splendour to the epic on staunch and indomitable Saigon. The wind of the historic August is carrying the echoes of her epic to the five continents. The city bearing the name of venerated President Ho Chi Minh and the 14 million South Vietnamese are inflicting setbacks on, and will complete defeat the, US aggressors and the traitors, their lackeys — in their last fighting ditch, in their last sanctuary.

QUANG LE

In the jungles of Tay Nguyen

The High Plateaux PLAF on their way to pursue the enemy

A flock of birds with their iridescent plumage leisurely gambol in the foliage in the mild midday sun of Autumn. They hop and sing. Their twitterings breathe life into the grandiose jungles of Tay Nguyen (Western Highlands of South Viet Nam — *Ed*). Tay Nguyen is really beautiful: The Tay Nguyen of today is no longer associated with "malefic sprites" and "unwholesome climate" as formerly. Its beauty lies not only in brooks whose fresh and limpid water babbles gently all the year round, in "Knia" trees whose thick foliage dispenses shade to the mutual aid teams resting after work or serves as trysts for "Stien" couples after harvest, but also in the unshakable solidarity between the "Kinh" (plain — dwelling majority people) and the "minority" people who have been living together through many common struggles on the beloved stretch of land handed down by their forefathers. It is moreover found in the ever-growing vitality of its peasants who have, under the leadership of the revolutionary power at all levels, tirelessly risen up and liberated their immense mountains and forests.

The peoples of Tay Nguyen namely the Stien Chamre, Khmer and Kinh always keep in mind the saying "When you drink water, think of its source." So when they returned to their "buon" and "soc phum" (mountain hamlets and villages) and restored their life to normal, they couldn't forget the miseries and horrors in the US-puppet days. They remembered that 24 years ago, this August, a piece of good news had come to them: Viet Nam had found a leader, Bock (Uncle/Ho - *Ed*) HO and independence.

Fields, hillside farms, brooks all fell back into the hands of Stien, Chamre, Khmer, M'nong and Kinh people. For the first time the people of Tay Nguyen were able to watch with delight the golden-starred red flag flutter over the communal meeting-hall. The people rich in money and cattle who had served as lackeys to the French and Japanese and committed countless crimes against the population either fled away or were duly punished. There remained only the village elders and inhabitants who were the masters of their "buon" (villages) and their "ray" (hillside milpas — *Ed*). The cadres of Bock Ho of Kinh as well as minority origin, came and lived among the villagers to lead production and

HUE
For Ever A Steel Fortress!

VIET NAM's third greatest city, after Hanoi and Saigon, Hue is well-known for its important political position and its ancient cultural tradition.

Hue is a former royal capital famous for its historic vestiges and its people's resounding feats in their uprising against the French colonialists more than a century ago.

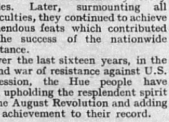
There is no need to go back to a very remote past to realize how Hue embodied the traditional heroism of the entire nation: suffice it to consider the events since the outbreak of the August 1945 general insurrection. Prior to the August Revolution, like the rest of the country, Hue lived in the darkness of a long night. Quiet flowed the waters of the Perfume River, and the city was shrouded in a veil of poetry and dream, but its people were harbouring in their heart a deep hatred against the alien aggressors.

Having experienced a life of shame and suffering, the Hue people had their eyes turned toward the revolution, and at the first call for general insurrection, they rose up thousands as one, since revolutionary bases had been solidly set up in all main administrative services and production units, and included all social strata: rickshaw drivers, hawkers and small vendars, school pupils and civil servants, armymen and members of self-defence groups of the first precinct, the Inner Citadel quarter, the Vi Da, Nam Giao, Cho Cong, An Cuu districts etc. Then came the great day: on Aug. 23, 1945, the insurrection was crowned with success and power fell into the people's hands. On Aug. 30, a delegation of the Central Provisional Goverment arrived in Hue to receive Bao Dai's abdication thereby putting an end to the millenary monarchy of our country. For the first time in history, the Hue people were able to enjoy genuine happiness under the democratic republican regime. The three-stripe flag was lowered and the golden-starred flag made its appearance, fluttering at the top of the Phu Van flagpole amidst thunderous cheers. The history of the nation and that of Hue had reached a turning point.

More than a year later (December 1946) Hue, together with the whole country, entered a new stage of struggle—that of the long drawnout resistance against the French colonialists' comeback.

Right in first days, the Hue people and armed forces grimly resisted the aggressors and besieged them for almost two months marked by bloody battles. Later, surmounting all difficulties, they continued to achieve tremendous feats which contributed to the success of the nationwide resistance.

Over the last sixteen years, in the second war of resistance against U.S. aggression, the Hue people have been upholding the resplendent spirit of the August Revolution and adding new achievement to their record.



To keep Hue under their grips the Americans had mustered crack army units supported by artillery, tanks, armoured vehicles and other ultra-modern weaponry. Their aircraft and flottila were mounting guard by day and by night over the Perfume River while battalions of field police coordinated their actions with puppet administrative authorities in 46 subsectors to repress the people. All means were resorted to by the US-puppet: demagogy and bribery, terror and murder. But the Hue people remained indomitable, they were faithful to the revolution and continually hit back at the enemy.

The whole nation and indeed the whole world followed with admiration the great deeds of heroic Hue. When Ngo Dinh Diem was installed as puppet President by J. F. Dulles and dragged his guillotine throughout South Viet Nam to conduct his "denounce Communists" campaign, he immediately met with a grim opposition from various social segments in Hue city. Low-salary salesgirls cut their long hair and sold it to buy paper to print revolutionary leaflets; bar maids and school-girls daringly struck at the Yanks with their wooden clogs in reply to their offensive behaviour toward them; a Buddhist monk set fire to himself in front of thousands of people in protest against US-puppet crimal war: all these bespoke the courage and undauntedness of the Hue people. They took to the streets and ransacked the US Information Hall, staged a 48-hour market boycott directed against US armymen, while Buddhist storming parties opened fire at the office of the governor of Thua Thien province and assaulted Hue Radion Station: these examples fired all Hue citizens forward! Then, in early spring 1968, they rose up in a concerted action and administered crushing blows at the US puppets. Becoming masters of their own city for 29 continuous day, they once again lowered the enemy flag and hoisted that of the NFL on top of the Ngo Mon Gate (on the night of January 31, 1968). The whole city was covered with flags. All Hue people turned out to receive fire-arms distributed to them and to garland and illuminate their houses and streets with flowers and lanterns. Old and young, men and women, everyone with zeal and dedication did something for the revolution and "fought the Yanks in the very heart of our city", as the Hueans were fond to put it.

Indeed something great and miraculous has occurred in Hue, for this city can boast of an elderly woman taking part in the capture of a US colonel, of a women guerilla unit wiping out more than 100 US-troops, and of a battle toll of 20,000 enemy troops in more than a year of continuous offensives and uprisings. The heroic traditions of the nation have been continued most brilliantly by the Hue people.

Hue is at present living a most intense life. In its winning posture, it is on its mettle to live up to its repute as an unconquerable steel fortress of Viet Nam!

HUONG GIANG

cultuvate unity and fraternity among the people so as to be prepared to wipe out evilminded people who tailed after the enemy and harmed the population.

All enjoyed a really happy life for nine years though they had to fight the French and the ill-natured people who killed their compatriots, destroyed the "ray" and burnt the "buon."

When peace was restored in 1954, the cadres and armed forces of Bock Ho temporarily left the land and people of Tay Nguyen to rejoin Bock Ho. Everyone missed them a great deal. The meeting-hall was deserted. The brook water was no more as limpid and the babbling no more pleasant to hear. The bird so beautiful in its fairy plumage stopped hopping and singing. The "drao" bird continued to fly but didn't take pleasure in alighting on the roof-top of the meeting-hall as previously. Children no longer sang their sweet songs. Day and night, everyone turned his thoughts to the North where they saw the Pole-Star rise, with deep affection for Bock Ho.

Then the opaque-eyed Americans replaced the French and indulged in raids, terrorism, killing, bombing, spraying of noxious chemicals with all kinds of aircraft and destroying "buon" and "ray." The evilminded elements, armed with US weapons, compelled the villagers to fell the trees of the jungles to set up fences and transform "buon" and "ray" into "strategic hamlets." They instituted forced labour, press-ganged the youth, hindered production and so reduced the population to destitution.

Food and salt were lacking all the year round. Those Chamre, Stien, Khmer and Kinh people who had lived in concord and unity, now were torn by suspicion and dared no more freely tell one another what they thought. US-puppets sowed racial discrimination among them. Time passed, and with it the dark days.

The bright light of dawn at last came back to the "buon" and "ray" ground down by the enemy when the banner of the National Front for Liberation made its appearance in 1960. The people of Tay Nguyen rose up and demolished the "strategic hamlets" fences. The US-puppets scampered off. The enemy coercion and demagogic system was shattered. US-puppet agents were unmasked and either fled or paid their blood debts on the spot. Those who managed to camouflage themselves and stay to serve the aggressors and traitors were, one after another detected and caught. The liberated zone broadened day by day. The brooks, "buon", "ray", and trees of the jungles seemed overflowed with joy. The flock of birds clad in their rainbowlike plumage resumed their warblings to welcome the warm Spring. The "drao" birds flew back and perched on the roof-top of the meeting-hall. The latter was again filled with people bustling in and out for discussions about production, the fighting, better living conditions, building of Liberation mass organizations and establishment of people's power. The "rouchien" dance, the "Long Live Bock Ho" dance were again performed by the people of Tay Nguyen in new beautiful costumes.

Hundreds of youths, boys and girls alike, who had hitherto been leading a sedentary life, now left their "buon" and "ray" either to serve as supply-carriers for the front or to enlist in the NFL armed units and fight on the battle-fields. The others joined the guerilla forces and the regional units to go on patrol, to stand guard vigilantly day and night, and defend their land.

Life again throbbed with renewed vigour. The guerillas of zone K valiantly fought back the enemy planes which strafed their "buon" and "ray" and sprayed noxious chemicals. The people of zone K excelled not only in combat and production but also in gathering manpower and material resources for the front. Many mutual help labour teams were set up in almost the "buon" and "ray". For the first time the Stien, Chamre and other minority people had their nurses, assistant-doctors and maternity-homes to attend to public health and women in child-bed. Each hamlet had its collective first-aid chest and sanitation worker. They received education in their own language. The new and progress gradually pushed back the old and backwardness. The majority and minority people strengthened their unity with every passing day in the fight against the US and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors. How to describe adequately Tay Nguyen's enthusiasm, innovations, and beauty?

Tay Nguyen is greatly elated and has become stronger than ever because previously it had the NFL and now the people's power. The peoples of Tay Nguyen pledge to bear always in mind President HO's words which Ibih Aleo, President of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux, recalled in his speech delivered on June 7, 1969 at the Congress of People's Representatives: "Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom," to stand side by side with the people throughout the country and "fight till the Yanks quit and the puppets topple," to carry out the watchword: "For want of rice, let's eat manioc or other jungle tubers; for want of salt, let's have thatch-ashes instead; for want of clothes, let's content ourselves with our loin clothes so as to defeat the US aggressors, force them to bow to the grandiose jungles of Tay Nguyen and achieve the complete liberation of our beloved country.

Y DRAO

Roses for Viet Nam

WE have performed under diluvian rains, rains of bombs, and also rains of flowers.

More than once, showers of roses have fell so abundantly on us that we had to stop singing and wait a few minutes.

Allow us to speak of our 11-girl choir from the Song and Dance National Ensemble, and this on the occasion of the naming of the Labour Youth Union after Ho Chi Minh. All of us are members of this organization and have been awarded with the "August 5" badges for having performed near the Ham Rong Bridge, a USAF choise target. Our

group has been cited as a "Socialist Labour Unit", for having performed and learned like socialist youths.

We have sung under rains of bombs, in the most heavily air raided areas of North Viet Nam. We have ridden in trucks along roads churned up by bombs and shells. We have walked through the jungle, stepping on the foot-prints of our guide, to avoid mines sown by enemy aircraft among leaves and grass.

The main thing for us is to keep warm our throats which is our only weapon. Even on the remotest front-line, we have sung "Our Native Land" and "Quang Binh, my native province", sometimes encored as many as six times by enthusiastic combatants.

WE were showered with flowers when touring in Italy. Each spectator came with a rose although roses were rather expensive there. As we put South Vietnamese—fashioned striped shawls on our shoulders, and began singing: "When swallows announce the coming of Spring, the tidings of victory spread from my native village," a thunder of applause broke out. The audience shouted out: "Ho Chi Minh! Giap! Dien Bien Phu!" We stood motionless, — astonished, happy and proud, — on a stage strewn with fragrant roses, feeling as if we had wandered through some garden of an ancient Indian poet. We were aware that all those roses and all that glory were for our country.

We must tell you that each tour abroad is a hard trial for us. So, from Moscow to Paris, we spent our time not gazing out of train windows at snow-covered fir-forests but rehearsing Russian folk songs. In France, we had to sing French popular songs, in Italy, Italian popular songs. While walking along picturesque meandering roads of poetic

Algiers, our whole minds were absorbed in conning a new Algerian song. Arabian is particularly difficult for us. We try to sing not as parrots, but with feeling of friendship for the host country and people.

After a wearisome many-score hour air trip, the dancers can always take a rest whereas we singer are always busy singing over a cup of tea or a glass of beer to foreign friends, or as a token of friendship when taking leave. Often it takes us a good deal of will power to stand the strains and perform with feeling. As modern Vietnamese singers, we have however to master the art of singing Vietnamese traditional songs.

Once we performed one of them while strumming an accompaniment on our 16-string instruments. Many people climbed on the stage to have a closer look at us and eventually praised our performance as a real feat of skill. Their nice words at one dispelled all our weariness.

We understand more and more that art requires hard and patient work.

SO, tours of foreign countries are for us no tourists' pleasure trips. Sometimes, we were given only a five-day notice for a 2 or 3-month tour which left very little time to put our family affairs in order. Several of us have spent five Tet — the Vietnamese traditional New Year's Day — far from home. We strive to be always in a state of preparedness as our combatants on the front.

Our program includes more and more new items, full of go and of originality, among them: "Strike five, young sister!", "The cradle of the Quan ho song," "Saigon girls serving ammunition,"... "The song of the t'rung instrument," "Chau Yen people shooting down US aircraft"... We do our utmost to render them well, putting all our hearts and souls in our work. We are like sparks that set fire to a torch. Every day, we remind ourselves that to sing well revolutionary songs, we should keep alive within ourselves the flames of the revolution, of patriotism and socialism. Such is our key to success. We want to follow in the steps of the heroes we sing of and to be worthy of the name "Ho Chi Minh" given to our Labour Youth Union.

THIEN NGA and MAI LAN

(Members of the girl choir from the DRVN Song and Dance National Ensemble)

Girls singing Group of the SVN PLAF's Song and Dance Ensemble

Dogfights with USAF

Editor's notes — *Following is an account of some air combats fought by Captain* **LUU HUY CHAO**, *a pilot of the Viet Nam People's Air Force, who has had to his credit 6 US aircraft downed by himself and 11 others destroyed in cooperation with his comrades. He was cited a hero of the People's Armed Forces on the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army.*

IT was a fine summer midday. On an air strip, Luu huy Chao was in the cockpit of his plane, dressed in his flight uniform. In another "Mig" H. was also waiting for the "off" signal. An ideal couple, they were going on a mission at a place rather far from their base, where the enemy had been continually operating for some time. They had their minds set on carrying the day.

After circling a whole over the terrain, Chao and H. steered southward, flying now low now high. They soon were over a small village recently burnt down by US bombs, when the CP informed them that they had arrived at destination. They climbed up and turned round for reconnaissance purpose. "At 45 degrees on the left, four enemy craft," said H. all of a sudden.

"Number two, get at them, I'll cover you!", ordered Chao, gliding aside to let his comrade take up a good position.

At the sight of adverse planes, the enemy formation split into two groups. H. unexpectedly made a sweeping round to flank the enemy then let off a burst of gun-fire. But it was too early and the US planes ducked. H. pressed them close and kept blazing away. An F4 "Phantom" took fire. At that time the second group of US aircraft roared in. Chao turned back, calling H.:

"Cover me, I am attacking".

He suddenly weered and took aim at the last plane. A single round and it was all in flames. Its pilots bailed out while all the other planes scampered off at full speed. Among other exploits of Chao, was his first fight against F8 "Crusaders."

That day, Chao, H.I. and D. received an order to intercept two groups of "Crusaders" flying the first at high altitude and the second at low altitude. H. and D. went to meet the first group and Chao and I., the second. But the enemy called in reinforcements and our pilots eventually had 16 adversaries in front of them.

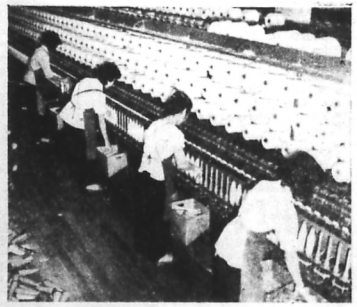
That did not matter! The fight started. Chao rushed upon a Yank. In his rear mirror, he saw that his comrade was close on his heels after shunning 6 enemy missiles. The Yank chased by Chao was a tough one indeed: as Chao veered, he did the same; as Chao zoomed so did he. Unexpectedly he resorted to his "secret trick." The Yank caught unawares tried to spot his adversary by the latter like a bolt from the blue pounced upon him and cut him to pieces. Meanwhile the group composed of H. and D. had also shattered another "Crusader."

Chao's whole unit returned safely to base. His commanding officer and many of his fellow-fighters were there beaming with joy. Chao was informed that the N. provincial Party and administration Committees had sent them congratulations.

Luu huy Chao then pinned a sixth star on the fuselage of his "Mig."

In DRVN

"ALL FOR THE FRONT"



At the Hongai coal mine and the "March 8 Textile Mill", the Kith and Kin Northern compatriots are active in the emulation movement **"All for the Front"**

To a US Friend

If you and Johnnie pay us a visit,
You'll be received with open arms.
Phat my brother will have your son
In his boxer's arms,
And they 'll have a go at wrestling
And make a mess of the tiled floor.
After a burst of triumphant laughter,
Johnnie will open his heart:
His home green with vines,
With a path behind skirting the Potomac,
Snow-haired granny gathering grapes mornings,
And helping grand-son learn his lessons, afternoons...

Friend, why haven't you come yet?
(May be it's the wide distance).
For more than a year Phat has been away
Fighting foes at the front.
Please, tell Johnnie not to slight his frailness.
He may concede a friendly bout,
But in a deadly duel,
His hands are steady, his eyes are sharp.
And each of his bullet is fatal to a foe.
In his unit, everyone has been cited for valour.

Isn't Spring by nature associated with greenness and freshness?
You and other young people converge on Washington,
Your mother and other elderly folks stream to the Capitol
To stop them bludgeoning Johnnie into an aggressor.
Give from me a kiss to your darling boy,
A kiss to his cudgel-dented forehead,
A kiss to his waled hands under the symbolic coffin,
A kiss to his eyes bright with the song of peace,
From me and from Phat too.

The earth is round,
Friend, it is round
And our paths will meet
Then, though grey-haired and grey-bearded,
Johnnie and Phat will have a wrestle,
Which will make us and our children and grand children
drawing round us
Laugh till tears come.

LY PHUONG LIEN
(a DRVN postess 20 years old)

A year of political actions

THE former's feeling for Uncle Ho, the Southern people's grief at Uncle's demise have been translated into revolutionary deeds. Faithful to Uncle's words: "We must stiffen our resolve to fight the American aggressors until final victory" though "the war of resistance against US aggression may drag on and our people may have to face new sacrifices of life and property", the South Vietnamese people in the past year always bore in mind his last instructions and reaped splendid results.

In the rural areas under enemy control, despite adverse threats, terror or deception, the majority of the people held discussions of President Ho Chi Minh's supreme message and pledged to act up to his last instructions. Millions of people animated with higher resolve marched together with the Liberation Armed Forces and destroyed or undermined most of the remaining "strategic hamlets", wiped out hundreds of pacification or civilian defence teams, set up popular power, liberated other extensive areas, dealt a further blow at the "pacification" of the countryside and Nixon's "Vietnamization."

In two key areas of "pacification", the Mekong delta and the Central plains of Trung Bo, popular protest was the strongest and the enemy "pacification and development" scheme the worst hit. Said AFP on June 14, 1970: "In Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces, village guerilla activities have increased alarmingly..." and that "in Binh Dinh province the picture is also gloomy...". Thus since the start of this year, in these two important plains continual attacks and general uprisings have been staged. In the Nam Bo plains, in some places, the enemy's control has been almost shattered like in My Tho town, in Ben Tre province. On March 16-21, 1970, over 1,000 people from 8 villages of Mo Cay district rose up and smashed enemy administration, held meetings to hail their successes and pledged to implement President Ho Chi Minh's supreme wishes.

In Central Trung Bo, in the first ten days of 1970 the masses up in arms demolished one after another 22 concentration zones in Ba Lang An area (Quang Ngai province) and streamed back to the liberated area. 10,000 people in Mieu area (Phu Yen province) revolted in March 1970 and wrested back power.

During the first six months of this year, hundreds of thousands of Tay Nguyen highlanders stormed 200 "strategic hamlets", concentration zones, "resettlement centres" with 166,000 participants, completely liberating 23,000 people.

While the three kinds of armed forces coordinated their actions on 1,200 military objectives on all battlefields, from the Ong Doc river (Ca Mau province) to Tri Thien Hue, the people continued to pull down "strategic hamlets" and concentration camps, build fighting hamlets, and villages, set up revolutionary rule, force the enemy to dig in their dens, and stir up a revolutionary commotion in the countryside. In the towns of South Viet Nam, popular agitation inspired by President Ho's last directions constantly upset the political situation and caused unabated concern to the puppet Saigon administration.

The watchwords of the widespread and sustained drive were better living conditions, democracy, an end to the war and the restoration of peace. It was triggered off by the workers' unrest which reached a high at the end of 1969 and the beginning of 1970 with tens of thousands of participants. The South Vietnamese working class and labouring people kept up their role as the core of the movement against the US puppet clique against the "austerity tax" dismissal, oppression, for improvement of the living standard and democratic freedoms. It struck at the economic and military bases of the enemy, compelling him to meet many of their claims.

On the other hand, the students and pupils gave

a powerful impetus to their movement against oppression, terror, militarization of their schools, which has since March last been the salient feature of South Viet Nam's urban political turmoil. Clashes between them and the police happens almost every day. Although the puppet Saigon administration has satisfied a number of their legitimate demands the youth struggle is still on, impelled by the enemy's increasing trickiness.

The Buddhist believers' protest hit a peak on Buddha's birthday (May 12, 1970) in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, Can Tho, Rach Gia... Hundreds of thousands of Buddhists priests and faithful took to the streets to oppose the dictatorial and fascist puppet administration and demand peace and release of the Buddhists illegally arrested by the Saigon authorities.

Many demonstrations of wounded puppet soldiers erupted not only in Saigon but also in other places like Quang Ngai, Khanh Hoa, for satisfaction of their claims by Nguyen Van Thieu. On July 5, 1970, 200 of them broke through the police cordon, marched to the Independence Palace and compelled him to listen to their grievances during his interview with US Secretary Rogers. Another weighty opposition has been that of the press. The peace and justice-loving journalists in South Viet Nam have been directing their pens against Thieu-Ky-Khiem's suppression of the freedom of the press and persecution of newsmen and against all the US-puppet crimes against the South Vietnamese people. The climax of their effort was the protest against the increase of the price of newsprint in March last.

In the same militant spirit, people in nearly 30 towns first of all Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, have been resorting to various methods to battle against the US aggressors and their stooges. In this widespread popular effervescence, mutual sympathy and support between various social sections has been most remarkable and has rocked the enemy's sanctuaries to their foundations.

The masses, in both towns and countryside, plains and mountains, by enhancing their mutual revolutionary solidarity and assaulting the enemy have eloquently substantiated Dr. Nguyen Huu Tho's statement to the correspondent of the "Voice of Viet Nam" during the visit of the South Viet Nam delegation to North Viet Nam for President Ho Chi Minh's funeral: "The South is determined to carry out his last wishes, to continue the great work to which he devoted his whole life, that is independence and freedom for the nation, happiness for the people, liberation of the South and reunification of the country."

PHAN HUU

Da Nang Buddhist manifestation against the US-puppet regime

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH WILL

IMPLEMENTING PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S TEACHINGS

SOUTH VIET NAM FRONT LINE ACTS

THE news of Uncle Ho's passing away came on Sept. 3, 1969 to South Viet Nam at a time when the people and armed forces were assaulting the enemy on all fronts to great the historic August 19 and September 2 anniversaries.

Since then, turning grief into strength and "*determined to fight the Yanks until final victory*" as Uncle Ho recommended in his last message, they have been hitting harder at the US, puppet and satellite troops. Right in September 1969, two waves of concerted attacks on the nights of Sept. 4 and 11, soon followed by a series of other actions

throughout South Viet Nam inflicted heavy enemy losses in each of the Nam Bo Delta and Central Trung Bo theatres of operations. Adverse casualties totalled 8,000, the number of vehicles put out of commission 200 and of aircraft downed 100. In Eastern Nam Bo alone, the enemy had 6,500 troops killed (including 3,500 US and satellite troops), 380 vehicles, mostly armoured cars, and 100 aircraft of various kinds, destroyed.

With a high morale and firm resolve, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces over the past year **made the most of their offensive posture on all fronts, in sustained and continuous and all-sidedly successful actions.**

Their strength and combativeness grew in the course of the fighting. From September to November 1969, enemy losses rose without let-up and the PLAF won in all the three strategic zones successes which still are, even now, referred to by the Western press. Most remarkable has been the accelerated tempo of onsets since March 1970. In April, several waves of concerted actions took place against more than 1,200 targets, and the enemy toll rose to 50,000. In May, it ran to 38,000 as a result of PLAF repeated strikes at 1,000 targets. Since June, widespread activities by popular forces have seriously threatened many adverse defensive sectors.

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces inventively applied and developed the versatile fighting methods of the people's war. Most dramatic *were the sustained operations on key defensive areas of the enemy.* There the PLAF made a combined use of all their forces such as surprise assaults, ambushes, attacks against fortresses and rescue columns, and aggravated the enemy fix. Most devastating were the long drawn-out siege of adverse positions which drained off a considerable part of enemy man power, as at Kenh Xang, Keo Ro, Ba Hon, An Giang, Bu Prang, Duc Lap (1969), Dak Seang, Hiep Duc, Camp O'Reilly, Hill 937, Cu Pung, Coc Bai (1970) etc. A series of enemy military sub-sectors were encircled and erased.

Other creative and resourceful combat methods were constantly put to use last year against the enemy superiority in equipment, especially his *means of transportation*: aircraft, river vessels, tanks and armoured vehicles were thus knocked out of action in quite big numbers. In the first eight months of 1970, the regional armed forces vied with one another in destroying enemy armoured vehicles and military rivercraft and in bagging adverse planes, especially in the Eastern Nam Bo, High Plateaux, Tri-Thien-Hue, Quang Nam and Binh Dinh theatres of operations.

Besides, the PLAF were able to couple **fighting outside enemy fortifications with deep infiltration into his rear area and wiping him out right in his sturdy fortifications.** Whole series of enemy aerodromes, harbours, depots, supply and logistics bases came under fire and even his heavily guarded, last-ditch repairs such as in Saigon, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh, Da Lat, My Tho, etc, were not immune to PLAF punishing blows.

Continually raising their combat efficiency, in the last year the South Vietnamese people and armed forces wiped out a substantial amount of enemy manpower. In the first six months only, the *number of US troops put out of action ran to 70,000 whereas that of puppet troops was four times bigger, not including deserters* whose proportions were described by the the Western press as "*frightfully high*" (AFP, April 30).

Under the clearsighted and expeditious leadership of the NFL and RSVN PRG, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces in a year, recorded most considerable and comprehensive achievements.

1. — They dealt a severe blow at the "Vietnamization of the war" policy of the US imperialists. The Liberation Armed Forces efficiently assisted the people living in areas under temporary US-puppet control in their *simultaneous uprisings, shattering the enemy apparatus of coercion and regaining their right as masters.* Whole series of "strategic hamlets" were dismantled, sometimes again and again after being rebuilt by the enemy, until the people living there were completely emancipated. Tens of thousands of adverse spies, thugs, and agents had to pay for their blood debts, and the puppet administration lost all its props for survival. At the beginning of April, under the impact of the patriotic forces' generalized offensives and popular concerted uprisings more than 50 per cent of the strategic hamlets painstakingly erected by the enemy in the course of his "accelerated pacification" were completely smashed.

Guerilla warfare was active everywhere, and guerilla forces grew in both strength and combativeness. Very skilful and original tactical methods were used by them to spread thin enemy forces and attack them, and pin them down on all fronts. Battles where every inch of ground was disputed took place even in areas selected by the enemy as "priority" pacification zones, such as the Mekong Delta, the High Plateaux, the Central Trung Bo lowlands. The growing gains of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces showed the *initial failure of the US "Vietnamization" — policy and the Nixon doctrine as well.*

2. — The South Vietnamese people and armed forces seriously thwarted further US "clear and hold" strategy. Firmly holding the initiative, the PLAF relentlessly attacked the enemy in all the three strategic zones, worsened his confusion and passive posture. The more he dug in and endeavoured to consolidate his enclaves in the defensive belt, the more often he was exposed to shattering strikes. Through with his "clear and hold" strategy, he hoped to cut down US casualties while he was forced to make a partial troop pullout under pressure of the anti-war protest which gained momentum in the world and the United States itself, US toll actually shot up (they doubled in comparison with the previous monthly average, according to a report by Senator Fulbright before Congress on Dec. 8 1969). The enemy out of passiveness ventured to mount a few "mopping up" operations, only to be badly mauled, and this to avoid higher losses as a result of strong PLAF attacks in depth on his fortifications. *So he was unable either to clear or to hold* and his "clear and hold" strategy was in great jeopardy. He was forced to alter his battle array, his orientation in the defensive and even its cope with a thoughtless aggression against Cambodia to extricate himself from the Viet Nam morass.

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces' past twelve months' gains were *tremendous and all-sided* indeed. To military successes were added accomplishments on the political front in South Viet Nam's cities where a strong popular drive for peace and democracy was spreading, and advances of a extensive anti-war movement in the United States since last fall; all this has driven the US imperialists into a tighter corner and made clearer the certainty of their final defeat. The progress of South Viet Nam's revolution has had a direct impact upon the US society. As a British professor specialized in US history sensibly commented, the United States is in a historical agony and is writhing in endless pains, that is why in Europe it is believed that Nixon has aggravated US social crisis. (*US News and World Report* Aug. 3, 1970).

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces are resolved to act upon Uncle Ho's last wishes and are convinced that "although they have to go through many more hardships and sacrifices, victory will be theirs," as Uncle Ho has affirmed in His Testament, and the Revolution will be brought to fruition.

THANH HONG

LIVE FOR EVER IN OUR HEARTS

25 YEARS OLD

LAI stood before a rather big V-shaped map showing the relief, population areas, enemy posts and our liberated areas in P.I. village, Phu Vang district, Thua Thien province (Hue suburbs).

Nguyen Thi Lai, head of the militia, had very sharp eyes under long curved eyelashes, an M.16 slung across her shoulder and a broad leather belt tight on her waist which made her look all the more sturdy.

Like a teacher of geography, with a pointer in her hand she showed the enemy garrisons and related the coups and ambushes of the P.I. armed forces and people, drawing experiences on the use of terrain and fighting for the members of her unit.

The whole guerilla company looked intently at the map and listened attentively to its commander. Now and then querries were put forward which were quickly cleared. After each explanation Lai would ask "Agreed?" to which many replied "All right."

In July 1954 Lai had just finished primary education in the resistance zone. Having passed her exam she stayed home too look after her family's fields on the bank of the Perfume River. But her village knew no peace. After the French troops had withdrawn, Ngo Dinh Diem's thugs, puppet troops then American troops came. No sooner had the French posts been destroyed than US-puppet posts were built. Raids, attacks, "denounce-communists" and "kill-communists" campaigns were started against former Resistance members. The blood of the P.I. villagers was again shed, Lai's dear ones were forcibly evacuated. The "Skylark" song and dance troupe was disbanded, Uncle Ho's portrait, a gift from an armyman before his regrouping to the North, had to be hidden. Hoan, Lai's teacher, had to go underground. One night, Lai, who acted as his liaison agent, was arrested during an errand. She was tortured by the secret police men in Phu Vang and Hue who tried to blandish her into betrayal but she stood firm. One night, with people's help, she escaped. Back to her village Lai was entrusted with building its armed forces. Between 1963 and 1969, she fought over 100 engagements, wiped out over 200 adverse troops, destroyed 17 military vehicles and led over 100 direct political confrontations. She was awarded the title of Heroine of the Liberation Armed Forces by the Front Central Committee and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

I met Lai on a sunny Autumn afternoon in a garden planted with areca and bamboo and criscrossed with trenches near the Perfume River when she was briefing the village militia.

Her exploits had been frontpaged in the local newspapers as I retated above. Asked about Lai, an old woman who came to encourage the drilling guerillas had this to say: "She is a fine girl, good both in the fighting and in production, a true daughter of the Revolution. When we seized power she had just been born. Today she is 25. Everybody of us loves her like his or her own daughter!"

At twenty-five, in the full bloom of youth, born and growing up in the crucible of the Revolution, now devoted to the struggle against American aggression, this Vietnamese girl, this Liberation fighter is an image of our time.

MINH PHUONG

TO RESPOND TO THE FRONT'S CALL

SINCE the very beginning, on the road to the front, the young drivers and mechanics of the lorry team of Company No 806 have been bearing in mind that life and the fighting here is bound to be harder than in any other line they were assigned to. In fact the enemy has hurled against that locality all kinds of bombs and shells and tens of thousands of tons of hardware to destroy its roads and bridges.

However, over the past two years, the drivers of Company No 806 have unremittingly, heroically and successfully faced the enemy. They have fulfilled the pledge taken before take up their assignment to the dangerous area. All of them have had some exploits to their credit. Never has any one of them thought of returning to the North for the simple reason that the battle has not been won, the South has not been liberated and the front is still in need of them.

Their mind is with the South, and is still ringing with the call of the front. With an increasing sense of responsibility, drivers and mechanics of Company No 806 defying all difficulties and hardships have put their hearts and souls in the job of carrying supplies to the front in greatest quantities and with minimum time and losses, resolved to treble their efforts to carry the day.

"Each revolution of their lorries' wheels
Alleviates the sufferings of the South."

Such a conviction has strengthened the resolve of the workers of Company No 806 to raise their transport capacity. They have devised clever tricks to fight the enemy, they boast many groups which have distinguished themselves in combat and management. Such groups as those of Le Viet Phu, Nguyen Trung Thuan, Nguyen Quang Chat, honoured with the Nguyen Van Be title, epitomize the spirit of relentless offensive against the enemy. The Bui Quoc Toan missile-group is representative of the "get the freight through" movement, the "spearhead" group of the "shorten-the-transport-time" drive.

In the latter, youth teams have found the shortest routes to destination and cut down the time to the minimum, and send back the vehicles in the shortest time. Nguyen Trung Thuan team has reduced by half the duration of a trip. Other teams have overfulfilled the monthly transport plan by from 30 to 35 per cent. Such lorries as those of comrades Thuan, Huan, Chien, Ngu, Chat, Hung have doubled their trips in (the month). Though exhausted by the driving, they did not hesitate to help with the loading and unloading to save time. In some cases they themselves managed to load and unload 300 tons of goods.

Carrying out the slogan "Let's keep the traffic going despite enemy destruction" the young drivers of Company No 806 have displayed great initiative using unhit roads, playing hide-and-seek with enemy planes or hacking out new ways. Taking a leaf from the book of hero Cao Ba Tuyet, they always make sure on the spot of the condition of a road. In fact, thanks to this style of work, they have turned cut off roads into practicable ones. On some night they succeeded in filling themselves two or three bomb craters and restored the traffic. They also do so hard work as felling trees to build corduroy roads and bridges, removing the obstacles in their way, and shunning time bombs...

The route of Company No 806 was subjected to continual air bombing. Over 50 localities were repeatedly "carpet" bombed into "no man's lands." But the enemy efforts eventually proved of no avail against their determination.

The vehicles are maintained even in their run; despite shortage of spare parts, the drivers and mechanics of Company No 806 rack their brains to find ways to keep their vehicles, especially the engines, in good repair. They can do repairs and make themselves spare parts and tools, in strict observance of the rules of the road and of AA defence.

With a grim determination in 1967, the workers of Transport Company No 806 maintained their engines in good order at 89 per cent (as against 82 per cent set by the target). The number of "smooth working" days reached was 27 per month (as against the 24 days allowed) and everyone of them was a "running day."

THE record of the young drivers and mechanics is a very long one. The Ministry of Transport of the DRVN has commended Transport Company No 806 in these terms: "Team No 8 of Company No 806 has proved itself to be an indomitable, courageous, skilful and resourceful transport unit. Aggressive against the enemy, resolved to fight and to win, zealous and resourceful in work, optimistic in life and confident in the future, the young workers of this unit have achieved exploits which confirm more and more brilliantly our revolutionary heroism. They fully deserve to be youths of the great President Ho Chi Minh era."

TRUONG VAN

STARS

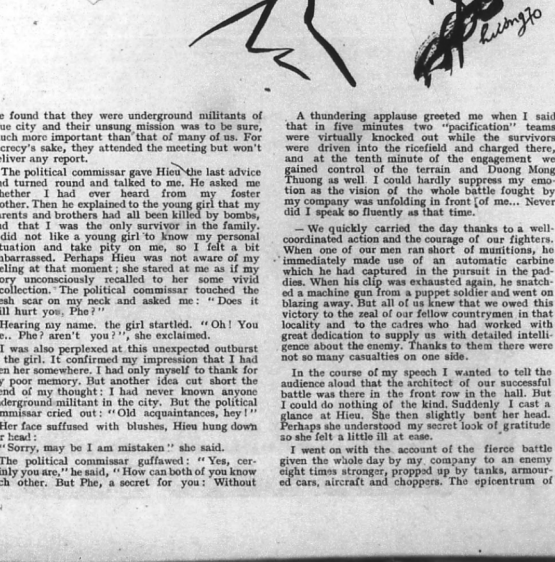
I was sent by the battalion command to the sappers' conference of Hue city with a report on the Duong Mong Thuong victory and some of the exploits I had achieved.

Before my turn came, the political commissar called me in and gave me the last instruction. On entering a hut I saw him chatting merrily with a young girl who was so shy that she always looked at her twiddling fingers, giggling. Looked like father and daughter. It seemed I had met her before. The meeting was a noisy and cheerful affair as the delegates were all young folk but she and two other teenager girls were all of a few words and a bit distant.

I thought perhaps they were from the seacoast or from the city from their bashfulness, so characteristic of "Hue" girls. None of them took the floor for a report. Yes, I had the impression that I had met the youngest girl—the one who sat by the political commissar—somewhere. I vaguely remembered these bright round eyes, this smiling mouth, this charming nose and slightly pointed chin of an old acquaintance of mine.

Once I boldly asked Hieu—this was her name I had managed to know—about her native land her work. For all answer, she only smiled timidly hanging her head. Then her lips began to stir and I heard a low voice: "I come from the suburb..."

All the three young girls were so "evasive" in their answers to our questions that we began to get irritated. Once, in a haughty voice, I told Hieu that as a revolutionary girl, she should be less shy and more communicative. She smiled, an apologetic smile which seemed also to say that I dit not understand her and her friends. So I tried to obtain some information about them and after an investigation



we found that they were underground militants of Hue city and their unsung mission was to be sure, much more important than that of many of us. For secrecy's sake, they attended the meeting but won't deliver any report.

The political commissar gave Hieu the last advice and turned round and talked to me. He asked me whether I had ever heard from my foster mother. Then he explained to the young girl that my parents and brothers had all been killed by bombs, and that I was the only survivor in the family. I did not like a young girl to know my personal situation and take pity on me, so I felt a bit embarrassed. Perhaps Hieu was not aware of my feeling at that moment; she stared at me as if my story unconsciously recalled to her some vivid recollection. The political commissar touched the fresh scar on my neck and asked me: "Does it still hurt you, Phe?"

Hearing my name, the girl startled. "Oh! You are.. Phe? aren't you?", she exclaimed.

I was also perplexed at this unexpected outburst of the girl. It confirmed my impression that I had seen her somewhere. I had only myself to thank for my poor memory. But another idea cut short the trend of my thought: I had never known anyone underground militant in the city. But the political commissar cried out: "Old acquaintances, hey!"

Her face suffused with blushes, Hieu hung down her head:

"Sorry, may be I am mistaken" she said.

The political commissar guffawed: "Yes, certainly you are," he said, "How can both of you know each other. But Phe, a secret for you: Without this young girl, perhaps you would not have won such a dashing success at Duong Mong Thuong. You must thank her for that."

I dimly understood what he was talking about. In the Duong Mong Thuong battle our group had wiped out an enemy strength three times our unit. But what was most remarkable was that in only ten minutes we could completely put out of action two "pacification" teams, the No 7 and No 8 and captured about 60 firearms. We were quite aware that if it were not detailed intelligence from the local authorities about the enemy's positions in each bloc of brick houses and at the market place, such a lightning feat of arms would not have been possible. I wondered whether we owed it to this gentle and nice-looking girl?

I was at a loss how to express myself, when a blow of whistle summoned us to the conference-hall. I was the first speaker.

At the recommendations of the political commissar, I did not read my achievements which I had prepared beforehand, but gave an oral account of the Duong Mong Thuong battle. At that time that village was, together with those of An Cuu, Van The, Cung Luong, Chiec Bi, still in the enemy's hands.

A thundering applause greeted me when I said that in five minutes two "pacification" teams were virtually knocked out while the survivors were driven into the ricefield and charged there, and at the tenth minute of the engagement we gained control of the terrain and Duong Mong Thuong as well I could hardly suppress my emotion as the vision of the whole battle fought by my company was unfolding in front of me... Never did I speak so fluently as that time.

We quickly carried the day thanks to a well-coordinated action and the courage of our fighters. When one of our men ran short of munitions, he immediately made use of an automatic carbine which he had captured in the pursuit in the paddies. When his clip was exhausted again, he snatched a machine gun from a puppet soldier and went on blazing away. But all of us knew that we owed this victory to the zeal of our fellow countrymen in that locality and to the cadres who had worked with great dedication to supply us with detailed intelligence about the enemy. Thanks to them there were not so many casualties on one side.

In the course of my speech I wanted to tell the audience aloud that the architect of our successful battle was sitting in front row in the hall. But I could do nothing of the kind. Suddenly I cast a glance at Hieu. She then slightly bent her head. Perhaps she understood my secret look of gratitude so she felt a little ill at ease.

I went on with the account of the fierce battle given the whole day by my company to an enemy eight times stronger, propped up by tanks, armoured cars, aircraft and choppers. The epicentrum of it shifted from the end of the village to the market place. While in action, we did not forget to run into the houses blasted down by enemy bombardment, to rescue their inhabitants. When I managed to carry an old woman unconscious from a blast out of a blazing hut, I fell dizzy and tumbled on the ground. My fall brought the old woman round. She now realized everything. With her bare hands she tried to stop the flow of blood from a wound in my neck. The runner of my unit came and exclaimed: "Oh! Phe, you're wounded!" and set to dressing my wound with the help of the old lady who was moaning. "It is because of me that you are injured."

Her wrinkled face was full of dirt and reeked of powder smoke. Her eyes were wet with tears.

We had made acquaintance with her after we had finished wiping out the two "pacification" teams, during the little time left to prepare a counter-attack. She was carrying two baskets of vermicelli to Hue when she was surprised by the battle and asked us to dispose of the whole of her hot and delicious "snack." I wanted to pay for it as I'd noticed she was so poor; she looked intently at me, bewildered and with a lump in her throat, said: "I don't like to offend the memory of my husband by accepting your money." And tears trickled down her cheeks. We were given to understand later that her husband had been killed five years ago by Ngo Dinh Diem at Thua Phu prison. Her home was not far from here. You see now why it was impossible for us not to win such a dramatic victory at Duong Mong Thuong!

THAT day's session wound up. I was returning to the shanty reserved for army delegates when a call stopped me. I turned round and saw Hieu coming up in a run. She was no more shy, but when arriving in front of me she blushed again. A little while later she said: "Phe, the old woman in your story is my mother..." This piece of information was unexpected but so simple; in fact Hieu took after her mother; the old woman had given an account of the battle to me and also to her only daughter...

At the climax of my emotion, I seized Hieu's hand without my knowing it. She did not try to withdraw it.

The following day when the assembly ended. I met Hieu again before parting. I had no time to ask more about her and her family but it seemed that I thoroughly understood her. Should I be given an assignment in her locality it wouldn't be hard for me to find her home. The political commissar who was in the know, allowed us to write to each other. After a while, Hieu slowly raised her voice, looking in the distance: "When you happen to be in our parts, come and see my mother..." and she cast a glance at me. Her eyes and face were now familiar to me. Through her knowing look I grasped her thought and what she had not yet told me; also through it I was aware that she understood what I had not yet told her and perhaps I did not think necessary to tell her. Finally, in a voice which sounded different from my own, I said: "Certainly, I will."

The wind stroked the threads of hair playing on her forehead. The leaves on the trees nearby rustled as if in a gossip about the nascent love between a boy and a girl.

I did not expect that this time I was to liberate Hieu's village. I was all in a flutter at the idea but as I was giving the finishing touch to the plan of attack I only said: "After the battle I'll go and see mother."

Hieu brightened up and in a cheerful voice but low as usual said: "I live in..."

IN various army units, tongues were wagging about Hieu, about our encounter at the Conference, but nobody expected she would be here today. Platoon leaders profited by their "consultations" with the company command to come and have a look at her and shake hands with her. She was much pleased to hold their callous but warm hands. In the sky, the stars were twinkling; their glimmer was bright enough for them to see the heroic girl's face.

There are no liberation fighters but do not like stars. They show them the way to storm enemy posts. They shine like the eyes of their dear ones. That night, it seemed that they glittered more brightly as if to enable people to have a good look at the young girl.

Standing by armymen having received marching orders, Hieu said entreatingly: "Let me come with you. I'll guide you straight into the battalion CP."

I removed my camouflage and put it on her shoulders. She let me do. I felt her breath and even the throbbing of her heart. In her eyes I saw the reflection of stars twinkling in the sky.

In the starlight, our men mounted a three-spearhead attack against Van The village.

TO NHUAN VY

Anti-war Agitation spreads all over America

THE American people, first and foremost the workers and the students, are steadily driving ahead their action for an end to the war of aggression in Indochina by the US rulers.

American big cities once more shook with angry anti-war shouts. More than 30,000 people, mostly workers and students, took part in large-scale demonstrations in New York streets with streamers reading "Withdraw at once US troops from Indochina!" Auto, airline, clothing, butchery... workers totalling 3,600,000 all members of the Alliance for Trade Union section held meeting after meeting and came out with anti-Vietnam war statements. 13 Trade Unions set up a National Trade Union Committee for an End to the War.

Demonstrations and rallies were organized successively in industrial centres such as Santa Barbara, Seattle, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, etc. Hundreds of students stormed a number of factories of the US monopoly capital specialized in producing ammunition and war materials for the Indochina war. The International Alliance of Students for Peace in Indochina was set up in Minnesota State University while the student's war protest was rising tumultuously in other Universities and colleges throughout the United States (Columbia, Massachusetts, Georgetown, Oberlin, Jackson, etc...)

Hugh Sloane, one of the 8 members of the White House Board of Advisors, after visiting the University of Columbia, acknowledged that US students' anti-war feeling surpassed his imagination. Heard, President of Vanderbilt University and Nixon's advisor on student affairs, also admitted that the Indochina war was the cause of campuses' troubles. Edward Kennedy was of the opinion that such a state of things would continue unless and until the Viet Nam war was ended.

A new development in the student movement for peace in Viet Nam was marked by the resolution passed by representatives of 300 universities and colleges all over the United States assembled in the Congress of the American National Union of Students. The resolution urged Nixon to rapidly end the war of aggression in Viet Nam. It also decided to launch a "disobedience" movement against the administration at all levels should the Nixon team be obdurate enough to continue their aggression in Indochina.

The Federation of Women for Peace and Freedom, in a Conference in Washington (July 9), called for an "economic war" by all American women against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. The drive for peace in Indochina has been also gaining momentum in business circles, among personalities, intellectuals, religious leaders, etc.

On June 24, nearly 300 renowned scientists mostly academicians sent a petition to Nixon for the withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina within one year. Prior to that, on May 25 a group of Nobel prize winners, representing three-quarters of all prize-winners in the US, also sent a letter to the administration pressing for an end to the war in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

As a result of the Viet Nam war, this year Independence Day (July Fourth) unfolded in a different way than expected by the rulers. On the evening of July 4, thousands of youths, RSVN flags in hands, and other Washingtonians staged a rally at a square just near the White House. *The New York Times* in its July 6 issue, complained that many Americans no longer held America in respect and that America was no longer worthy of her glorious Independence Day since she had been involved in an atrocious and destructive war in South Viet Nam.

It was in this tense atmosphere that the Pentagon continually received dismal news on loyalty tests of GIs garrisoned at home or abroad. US soldiers opposed the war on the Hancock aircraft carrier, at the Grand Forks air base, at the Pendleton "Marine" base, in US units stationed in Okinawa (Japan) etc. An organization called "Movement of Anxious Officers", overtly hostile to the Viet Nam war, was just founded in the federal capital. It declared its duty was to inform US troops and people that officers constituted in no way part of Nixon's "silent majority" and that they would not let the Pentagon mould their minds to its liking.

The US war of aggression in Viet Nam has always been a topic of heated discussions among US ruling circles and also a source of grave dissensions among them: more resignations were recently handed in, namely by Clark Mollenhoff, Special Advisor to the White House; Robert Finch, Secretary for Health, Education and Welfare, Nelson, counsellor to the USUN delegation. Others were dismissed like Walter Slowcome, a member of the National Security Council. *The Washington Post* recently disclosed that Henry Kissinger, Nixon's special assistant, had received letters of resignation from another 5 members of the National Security Council.

At the end of June, the US Senate by an overwhelming majority voted for the cancellation of the Tonking Resolution, and from July 6 anti-war. Senators started a 3-week campaign in television and newspapers to bring public pressure to bear on Congress for US troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam. The amendment proposed by Senator McGovern which urged an end to the Viet Nam war has been enlisting strong support from Americans of all walks of life...

According to AFL – CIO statistics, the figure of jobless Americans rose by 1,100,000 in the first 6 months of this year, a clear indication that the war of aggression in Viet Nam has generated a serious recession in the US economy, as Cyrus Eaton has rightly remarked. Thomas Watson, President of the US International Business Machine, in a letter sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also stated that the war in Viet Nam was the cause of inflation and credibility gap now facing America.

ANTI-war indignation is mounting. It will inevitably assume greater proportions. Sooner or later, the US rulers will have to face this fact: Nixon views US withdrawal and ending of the Viet Nam war as a shame, but that the US is considered a thoughtless community by the world is even more shameful than its failure to admit it is not at all powerful. This is in essence what Senator W. Fulbright said at a anti-war conference held on July 9, in Washington by 100 Congressmen from both Democratic and Republican Parties.

in brief

● The Soviet Union-Iraq Joint communique on the occasion of the visit of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq to Soviet Union headed by Mr. Saddam Hussein Tikriti, Vice-President of the Iraq Revolutionary Council and Vice Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party declared its support to the proposals of the RSVN on a political solution to the South Viet Nam issue.

● The "Ireland Voice on Viet Nam" issued on June 26 a statement demanding the complete withdrawal of the American troops from South Viet Nam.

The statement was signed by 105 official personalities and representatives of all walks of life in Ireland.

● The 8th National Congress of the Consumers Cooperatives Moscow, in the Soviet Union held on August 13 in Moscow called on all cooperative members the world over to vigorously condemn the US aggression in Indochina.

About 303 American laywers in Baltimore recently made public a statement urging the pull-out of all US troops from South Viet Nam.

● In its 12-point programme of action put forth recently, the "Movement for Democracy in the US Army" (MDM) demanded an end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and withdrawal of the US troops.

All the participants in the American "National Student Association (NSA) convention held on August 15 adopted a programme of action for the nine months to come with all-out attempt and the greatest resolve to bring to an end the war in Viet Nam.

● On July 24, 1970, an organization of anti-war GIs was established right in the US units based in Okinawa. This organization published a paper campaigning against the US war of aggression against Viet Nam.

*

The French people condemn the US aggressive war to the whole of Indochina

SOUTH VIET NAM

No 72

Sept. 2, 1970

Published by the NFL Information Commission

Index 12,520